

# Appeal

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(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Sept. 9 — President Kennedy said tonight that the United States test-ban treaty, on which debate began at noon today in the Senate, affects the United States' leadership and its security.

"That is why," he said, "I think it is very important that the Senate pass it."

Turning the subject around, the President said that if the Senate should reject the treaty the sound of the United States' trumpet, as heard abroad, would be "very uncertain."

The President spoke tonight in a television interview in which, responding to questions, he covered the high spots of the current situation at home and overseas.

## Vietnam Issue

Thus, in addition to urging Senate approval of the test-ban treaty, he said:

1. The United States is using its influence to persuade the Government of South Vietnam to win broader support from the people in that country. But, he added, he does not think it would be helpful for the United States to reduce its aid to South Vietnam at this time.

2. He can give the American public no enlightenment on the work of the Central Intelligence Agency in South Vietnam, except to deny that the CIA tends to make its own policy.

3. The American people should be divided politically between Republicans and Democrats but not between Negroes and whites. He hopes the Administration's civil rights bill will be approved by Congress in a form as close as possible to his original recommendations.

## Tax Cut Stand

4. Without taking direct issue with former President Harry Truman, who said today that he did not think Federal taxes should be cut until the budget is balanced, the President supported the proposed tax cut and said he thinks it will stimulate the economy so that the budget will be balanced more quickly.

Taking a broad view of the United States at the start of the television interview, the President said:

"On the whole, I think this country has done an outstanding job. A good many countries today are free that would not be free.

"Communism's gains since 1945 in spite of chaos and poverty have been limited, and I think the balance of power still rests with the West, and I think it can increase our strength if we make the right decisions this year, economically here at home and in the field of foreign policy."

## "Our Leadership"

"Two matters that we have been talking about are examples of that."

"One is the tax cut which affects our economic growth, which affects the whole movement of this country internally; (the other is) the test-ban treaty, which affects our security abroad and our leadership. That is why I think it is very important that the Senate pass it."

"You know the old story that who prepares for battle that the trumpet blows an uncertain sound. Well, I think that if the United States Senate rejected that treaty after the Government has committed itself to it, the sound from the United States around the world would be very uncertain."

A week ago this evening the President was interviewed for a news program televised by the Columbia Broadcasting System. His interview this evening was carried by the National Broadcasting Company. In each instance his interview was taped earlier in the day, edited to fit the requirements of the program, and then released as a public document by the White House.

## Asked About Policy

A considerable part of the interview dealt with the problems in Vietnam. The President was asked if the American Government tends to get locked into a policy or an attitude and then finds it difficult to alter that policy.

"Yes, that is true," Mr. Kennedy said. "I think in the case of South Vietnam we have been dealing with a Government which is in control, has been in control for ten years. In addition, we have felt for the last two years that the struggle against the Communists was going better."

"Since June, however, the difficulties with the Buddhists, we have been concerned about a deterioration, particularly in the Saigon area, which hasn't been felt greatly in the outlying areas but may spread."

"So we are faced with the problem of wanting to protect the area against the Communists. On the other hand we have to deal with the Government there. That produces a kind of ambivalence in our efforts which exposes us to some criticism."

"We are using our influence to persuade the Government here to take those steps which will win back support. In the meantime and we must be patient, we must persist."

But, in saying that he did not think it would be helpful to reduce United States' aid to Vietnam, he explained:

"If you reduce your aid, it is possible you could have some effect upon the Government structure there. On the other hand, you might have a situation which could bring about a collapse."

"Strongly in our mind is what happened in the case of China at the end of World War II, where China was lost, a weak Government became increasingly unable to control events. We don't want that."

The President went on to say that he believes the "domino theory"—that if South Vietnam falls the rest of Southeast Asia will follow it.

"I think that the struggle is close enough," he said. "China is so large, looms so high just beyond the frontiers, that if South Vietnam went it would not only give them an improved geographic position for a guerrilla assault on Malaya, but would also give the impression that the wave of the future in Southeast Asia was China and the Communists."

The President was reminded of recent press reports about the activities of the CIA in Vietnam. (Some of the reports said that the special forces used by the Diem Government to raid the Buddhist pagodas are supported with monthly payments from the CIA.)

"Can you give us any enlightenment on it?" the President was asked.

"No," he said.

"Does the CIA tend to make its own policy?" he was asked. "That seems to be the debate here."

## "That Isn't So"

"No, that is the frequent charge, but that isn't so," the President said. "Mr. McCone, head of the CIA, sits in the National Security Council. We have had a number of meetings in the past few days about events in South Vietnam. Mr. McCone participated in every one, and the CIA coordinates its efforts with the State Department and the Defense Department."

Mr. Kennedy said the United States does have some influence in South Vietnam, and is attempting to carry it out. But he stressed the point that the United States cannot expect other countries to do everything the way it wants them to.

"They have their own interest, their own personalities, their own tradition," he continued. "We cannot make everyone in our image, and there are a good many people in addition, we have ancient struggles between countries."

## "Our View"

"In the case of India and Pakistan, we would like to have them settle Kashmir. That is our view of the best way to defend the Subcontinent against communism. But that struggle between India and Pakistan is more important to a good many people in that area than the struggle against the Communists."

"We would like to have Cambodia, Thailand and South Vietnam all in harmony, but there are ancient differences there."

"We can't make the world over, but we can influence the world. The fact of the matter is that with the assistance of the United States, SEATO, Southeast Asia and indeed all of Asia has been maintained independent against a powerful force, the Chinese Communists."

## "We Should Stay"

"What I am concerned about is that Americans will get impatient and say because they don't like events in Southeast Asia or they don't like the Government in Saigon, that we should withdraw. That only makes it easy for the Communists. I think we should stay. We should use our influence in as effective a way as we can, but we should not withdraw."

Responding to another question, the President said he does not know whether he will see President Tito of Yugoslavia this autumn, but he indicated that he expects to see Tito as well as other Government heads who come to the United Nations General Assembly.

## Urges Support

As noted earlier, the President again urged support for his bill to reduce income taxes. The reason for the budget deficit now, he said, is because the country has 4,000,000 unemployed and because growth has been rather sluggish in the last five years.

"My guess," he said, "is that if we can get the tax cut with the stimulus it will give to the economy, that we will get our budget in balance quicker than we will if we don't have it."

The President was replying to a question based on the comment of former President Truman, who said during his morning walk to New York that he did not think taxes should be cut until the budget is balanced.